GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4991
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Deaths due to Climate Change
Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether as per World Health Organisation (WHO) climate change is likely to kill more people each year and to which India is expected to contribute significantly to these deaths to be caused by malaria, diarrheal diseases, heat stress and malnutrition etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive measures taken in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b): As per World Health Organisation (WHO) report 2014, it is estimated that approximately 2,50,000 additional deaths will occur due to climate change per year between 2030 and 2050. These additional deaths are expected to be caused due to heat exposure in elderly people, diarrheal, malaria and childhood under - nutrition. The report does not specifically mention about India but states that 'All population will be affected by climate change, but some are more vulnerable than other. People living in small islands, developing States and other coastal regions, megacities and mountainous and polar regions are particularly vulnerable'.

(c): The Government has released the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which addresses the urgent and critical concerns of the country through concerted actions. The NAPCC outlines steps to advance India's development and climate change related objectives of adaptation and mitigation.

National programmes have been undertaken by the Government to address the issue of water-borne disease. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation oversees the implementation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in the country.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed guidelines, inter alia, for preparation of Action Plan with aim to facilitate the stakeholders in preparing a Heat Wave Management Plan.

The preventive and control measures for vector born disease including malaria are implemented by the Directorate of National Vector Born Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).

The preventive measures taken by the Government to address the issues of air pollution include :
i) Formulation of environmental regulations/statues;
ii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
iii) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new stringent standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries, etc.